



THE BRITISH
CHAMBERS OF
COMMERCE



CHAMBER AWARDS 2006
Regional Winners Press Pack
South East

The crème of the South East's businesses recognised by British Chambers of Commerce

BCC announces the regional winners of the Chamber Awards 2006 in the South East

17th October 2006 – The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) and Microsoft today announce the regional winners of the Chamber Awards 2006 in the South East. Now in its third year the Chamber Awards was developed to recognise outstanding business achievement within the UK business community.

There are seven different categories of awards nationally and Accredited Chamber members were permitted to enter as many as they wished. The award categories and winners for the South East are detailed below.

Award	Sponsor	Chamber	Winner	Nature of Business
Microsoft Award for Innovation Through Technology	Microsoft	London Chamber of Commerce	Turbo 10 Ltd	Online search technology
Business of the Year	Composite Legal Expenses	London Chamber of Commerce	Futures Supplies & Support Services	Trade supplier of cleaning products
Most Promising New Business	BT	Channel Chamber of Commerce	Red Eagle	Recruitment Agency
Business Commitment to the Community	Westfield Heath	Channel Chamber of Commerce	Christchurch Nursery School (Folkestone)Ltd	Children's nursery school
Award for Skills and Workforce Development	The Telegraph Business Club	Channel Chamber of Commerce	Euromotive (Kent)Ltd	Van converters and Coachbuilders
Entrepreneur of the Year	Yorkshire Bank	Sussex Chamber of Commerce	Violaine Roberts The Flying Fortress	A family entertainment centre
Exporter of the Year	UK Trade & Investment	Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry	Wyeth Pharmaceuticals	Pharmaceutical Company

NB: For more information on each of the different categories and winners please refer to relevant media alert below.

Peter Mileham, President of the BCC, said:

“I am delighted the Chamber Awards provide an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the success of businesses across the country. Those who have got this far are already recognised as outstanding within their own regions and I congratulate them. It will be tough to pick the national winners from such a high calibre of regional winners.”

Each of the regional winners received a certificate and they will all now go through to the national round of judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000. This prize will be awarded to the company that the judges agree should win the overall Award for Outstanding Business Achievement courtesy of Microsoft. Last year this was won by Anthony Alan Foods Ltd from Barnsley Chamber of Commerce, South Yorkshire, which has the UK licence to manufacture cakes under the Weightwatchers brand. Using innovative and ground breaking technology, the company was able to produce a range of products that became instant market leaders and have remained so ever since. This is despite fierce competition from existing incumbents in the market, all of whom are household names.

Natalie Ayres, Microsoft’s Senior Director Small and Medium Solutions and Partners Group added;

“The standard of entries received for this year’s Chamber Awards has been incredibly high. We have been more than impressed by the commitment, enthusiasm and success of so many British companies. They all deserve recognition and reward for the contributions they make to their industries, to their customers and to the country. We wish all the winners the best of luck in the national judging.”

The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2006 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London on the 23rd November 2006.

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Notes to the editors:

- The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) is the authentic voice of British businesses.
- The BCC sits at the heart of a powerful nationwide network of Accredited Chambers of Commerce serving business across the UK, which employ over five million people.

About Microsoft

- Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq “MSFT”) is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realise their full potential.

MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and Microsoft announce the South East winner of the Microsoft Award for Innovation through Technology

Turbo 10 Ltd, a member of the London Chamber of Commerce, has been announced as the regional winner of the Microsoft Award for Innovation through Technology in the South East for the Chamber Awards 2006. The business (a provider of online search technology) won the Microsoft-sponsored award as because the company is making great progress in a crowded market because of the investment that it has made in its technology. Turbo 10 Ltd claims to be the first search engine in the world to uncover information in the 'invisible web' which is estimated to be 500 times greater than other information currently indexed by other crawler based search engines. The company is growing rapidly but with good bottom line performance and is set to do extremely well.

Natalie Ayres, Microsoft's Senior Director Small and Medium Solutions and Partners Group said; "In an ever more competitive market, businesses are on the hunt for anything that can give that all important competitive edge. The most innovative are looking closely at their technology investment to identify not just where they can streamline their business processes but how they might enhance or create products and services. We are proud to celebrate the best of these ideas."

Turbo 10 Ltd will now go through to national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2006 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London on the 23rd November 2006.

Peter Mileham, President of the BCC, said;

"Technology now touches all businesses. It is often the difference between success and failure. Turbo 10 Ltd has made its technology investment work. They have looked closely at how their businesses could be made better, not just more efficient, with technology."

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MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and Composite Legal Expenses announce the South East regional winner of the Business of the Year Award

Futures Supplies & Support Services Ltd, a member of the London Chamber of Commerce, has been announced as the regional winner of the Business of the Year Award in the South East for the Chamber Awards 2006. The company (a trade supplier of cleaning products) won the Composite Legal Expenses-sponsored award because the company provided a compelling story of a business that understands its market and customer needs and places these at the forefront of its strategic development. A major fire almost closed the business in 2001 but with the help and determination of the dedicated staff the business has gone from strength to strength and the sales are now in excess of £2 million.

John Mullin, Managing Director, Composite Legal Expenses, commented;

“This award is reserved for the very best businesses across the country. Congratulations to Future Supplies & Support Services Ltd you join a very small and elite band of businesses that exemplify this pinnacle of achievement. In all areas of your business you illustrate a level of skill for all business people to learn from.”

Future Supplies & Support Services Ltd will now go through to national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2006 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London on the 23rd November 2006.

Peter Mileham, President of the BCC, said;

“Future Supplies and Support Services Ltd is a business that really stands out from the crowd. The competition was fierce. Making it to the short list is tough and winning is reserved for only the very best. Congratulations.”

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MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and BT announce the South East regional winner of the Most Promising New Business Award

Red Eagle, a member of the Channel Chamber of Commerce, has been announced as the regional winner of the Most Promising New Business Award in the South East for the Chamber Awards 2006. The company (a recruitment agency) won the BT-sponsored award because the company has a very good turnover and bottom line in an extremely competitive market place. The judges felt that the long industry experience of the owners had been put to good effect in placing the customer at the centre of the service by finding real ways to reduce their costs and improve their efficiencies. They also have very creative ideas about where they want the business to be in the next three years and what additional services they would like to offer their client base.

Andrew McGregor, Head of Marketing & Strategy at BT Business, commented;

“Starting a new business is daunting enough, but to take it successfully through its’ first few years needs courage, talent and tenacity. BT is delighted to recognise this success and applauds those entrepreneurs for their determination and achievement.”

Red Eagle will now go through to national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2006 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London on the 23rd November 2006.

Peter Mileham, President of the BCC, said;

“Success in business is always the result of very hard work on the part of the founders. So many businesses fail to make it past their first let alone their third year. Red Eagle is an inspiration to all of us in business.”

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MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and Westfield Health announce the South East regional winner of the Business Commitment to the Community Award

Christchurch Nursery School (Folkestone) Ltd, a member of the Channel Chamber of Commerce, has been announced as the regional winner of the Business Commitment to the Community Award in the South East for the Chamber Awards 2006. The company (a children's nursery) won the Westfield Health-sponsored award because it places itself at the heart of the community both in terms of its core activities but also in the work of the Christchurch Children's project. This charity project (which they raise several thousand pounds for every year) helps children with special needs to participate in mainstream pre- school education and activities.

Jill Davies, Executive Director, Sales and Marketing, Westfield Health said;

"For many businesses the contribution they make to their community stops at the payment of taxes or salaries to employees. The winner of this award sees its role in much broader terms. It shows us that seeking to improve the communities in which you operate is not just a moral obligation but a business opportunity too."

Christchurch Nursery School Ltd will now go through to national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2006 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London on the 23rd November 2006.

Peter Mileham, President of the BCC said;

"Business has always been the economic backbone of our society but now many of us want to go much further than this. The winner of this award shows us how you can combine your business objectives with a desire to positively impact your local community."

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MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and the Telegraph Business Club announce the South East regional winner of the Award for Skills and Workforce Development

Euromotive (Kent) Ltd, a member of the Channel Chamber of Commerce, has been announced as the regional winner of the Award for Skills and Workforce Development in the South East for the Chamber Awards 2006. The organisation (a van converter and coach-building company) won the Telegraph Business Club-sponsored award because the judges were impressed with the way that the workforce development strategy informed all aspects of the business. The internal development of staff was noted as exceptional for this industry sector including a well-planned apprentice scheme. This translated into an ongoing commitment to the staff throughout their career with the company delivering a very strong sense of teamwork and mutual support.

"Every week the Business Club page in the Daily Telegraph reveals the 'Secrets of Success' of an exceptionally talented entrepreneur," says David Sumner Smith, programme director of the Telegraph Business Club. "And in the vast majority of cases that 'secret' relates directly to the performance of their staff team. The winner of this award provides another strong reminder of the positive impact on business performance resulting from investment in the development of your workforce's skills."

Euromotive (Kent) Ltd will now go through to national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2006 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London on the 23rd November 2006.

Peter Mileham, President of the BCC said,

"The BCC has long been an advocate of the importance of investing in the skills development of your workforce. A strategic skills and workforce development programme will be one of the most effective investments any business can make. The winner of this award sets a standard we should aspire to."

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MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and Yorkshire Bank announce the South East regional winner of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Violaine Roberts of The Flying Fortress, a member of the Sussex Chamber of Commerce, she has been announced as the regional winner of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the South East for the Chamber Awards 2006.

Violaine won the Yorkshire Bank sponsored award because The Flying Fortress is a unique and growing part of the Sussex Leisure scene. She has shown a commendable and dogged pursuit of her ambition to create a business that understands and serves the leisure and social needs of her community. In just one year The Flying Fortress has become strong and a recognised brand and is considered to be an outstanding visitor attraction for families.

Brian Colquhoun, Head of Integrated Financial Solutions, Yorkshire Bank said,
“Just as they say there is a novel in us all everyone thinks they can spot a business opportunity and create a successful company. This is not true. Entrepreneurs are rare. This award recognises the achievements of the best.”

Violaine will now go through to national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2006 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London on the 23rd November 2006.

Peter Mileham, President of the BCC said,
“Entrepreneurs are the pioneers of the modern age. They take risks. They spot opportunities when most of us see barriers. The finalists of this award are members of an all too small elite club in this country.”

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MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and UK Trade & Investment announce the South East winner of the Exporter of the Year Award

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, a member of the Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry, has been announced as the regional winner of the Exporter of the Year Award in the South East for the Chamber Awards 2006. The organisation (a pharmaceutical company) won the UK Trade & Investment -sponsored because the judges felt that the business was a truly world class company. The company wins exports for its innovative pharmaceutical biotechnology and vaccine products throughout the world. Its centre of excellence in 'cold chain' products has been the springboard for year-on-year sales growth of 50% to key export markets spanning 120 different countries.

Andrew Cahn, Chief Executive of UK Trade & Investment commented:

"I am delighted that UK Trade & Investment is sponsoring this award, and congratulate Wyeth Pharmaceuticals on becoming regional winner for the Yorkshire and Humber region. Exporters like Wyeth Pharmaceuticals make a crucial contribution to the economy and it is good to see them receiving recognition for this. I wish them all the best in the national competition.

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals will now go through to national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of Chamber Awards 2006 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London on the 23rd November 2006.

Peter Mileham, President of the BCC said,

"Making a success of your business in your local community or the UK is tough enough – extending that into international markets takes courage and skill. Congratulations to Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. Export markets are all too often an untapped business opportunity. You have shown what can be achieved."

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Note to the editor:

UK Trade & Investment is the lead government organisation that provides support for UK companies looking to develop international business. It also provides support for overseas companies wishing to invest in the UK. UK Trade & Investment has a wide range of services, backed-up by a network of trade advisors around the UK and worldwide who can provide market intelligence, advice on regulations, sales leads, and financial and practical support.